

# GayCommunityNews

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## Foster Care Policy Anniversary

*Tired of sparring,  
Governor Dukakis  
threatens to take his  
baby and go home.*

**Telling Our Parents  
About Our Adult Lives**





# GayCommunityNews

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May 31, 1986

## Thousands Don Triangles for Foster Equality Day

By Anne Phibbs

BOSTON—Thousands of Massachusetts citizens, including many lesbians, gay men and social service providers, marked the one-year anniversary of the state's foster care policy, May 16, by participating in a variety of actions organized by the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC).

In what was dubbed the Denmark Campaign to Foster Equality, the GLDC distributed thousands of foster equality stickers, which were visible all over Boston.

According to GLDC activist Sarah Holmes, a second batch of stickers had to be printed after the initial ten thousand were distributed. Holmes said she was heartened that so many Department of Social Services (DSS) employees and other state employees who work with children wore stickers and participated in the noon-time press conference and rally held at the foot of the Massachusetts State House.

An estimated 200 people attend-

women are placed at the bottom of the list.

John Whyte, a physician and member of GLDC, noted in his address that the only authority Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis has cited in support of the foster care policy was noted pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock. The documentation Dukakis referred to, said Whyte, was an excerpt from Spock's famous book on childrearing that refers to sex roles and having two parents as opposed to one. The passages make no reference to homosexuality. Whyte told the crowd he recently wrote to Spock, asking him to clarify his position. According to Whyte, Spock replied, "I agree with you and the other professionals who are arguing that professionals, not politicians, should decide about placements."

Saying she was addressing her remarks to Dukakis as much as to the crowd, Virginia Burns, executive director of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, recalled adoption practices dating back to the 1950s. Those practices included regulations about who could adopt and who couldn't, statements that "prejudices of the community should be respected," and a policy that physically and emotionally handicapped children were not eligible for adoption. Burns equated these policies with

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Activists at Foster Equality Day noon rally, in front of the Boston State House.

The model for the campaign came from the Danish citizens who wore yellow stars during the Nazi occupation of their country, as a protest against the singling out of Jews for persecution.

ed the spirited rally, where nine speakers attacked the 1985 foster care policy which creates a hierarchy of eligible foster parents. Under the policy, gay men, lesbians, single people and working

*Some feminists blast commission*

## Meese Report Links Porn to Sexual Violence

By Janice Irvine

WASHINGTON, DC—Amidst public controversy and internal dissent, the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography last week released the introduction to its final report. The commission linked exposure to most pornography with sexual violence and called for tougher enforcement of obscenity laws. The full report will be issued in July.

After a year of deliberations and public hearings, and despite the dissent of two commissioners, the report states, "...we have reached the conclusion, unanimously and confidently, that the available evidence strongly supports the hypothesis that substantial exposure to sexually violent materials as described here bears a causal relationship to antisocial acts of sexual violence and, for some subgroups, possibly to unlawful acts of sexual violence." Depictions of s/m are included in the category of violent pornography. Another category, termed "degrading" pornography, was described as material that could lead to attitudinal change and to violence. According to the commission, "degrading" pornography includes "extreme" examples such as "...two women engaged in sexual activity with each other while a

man looks on and masturbates..." and "...a woman with legs spread wide open holding her labia open with her fingers..."

The commission rejected the Dworkin-McKinnon civil rights approach to pornography because of its unconstitutionality (see GCN, Vol. 13, No. 34). But it has called for new legislation to expand the available means for prosecuting people who create sexually explicit imagery. The commission recommended the adoption of a Federal law requiring a one-year prison sentence for second-time convictions on obscenity charges and called for the creation of an obscenity task force to focus on prosecution. It also recommended that:

- State and local officials should use laws against pandering to prosecute people involved in distribution of obscene material;
- The Federal Communications Commission should use its full regulatory powers against "obscene dial-a-porn telephone services;"
- Labor law should be rewritten to make it an unfair business practice for an employer to hire people to participate in commercial sexual performances.

These conclusions directly contradict the findings of the 1970

Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, which found no connection between pornography and violent or criminal behavior. The 1970 commission recommended against any

*Continued on page 3*

## Mass. House Passes Bill for HTLV-3 Confidentiality

*"The same House that killed the gay/lesbian rights bill and voted terribly on foster care turned around and did something good."*

—Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

By Stephanie Poggi

BOSTON—Elated at the swift House passage May 21 of a bill to guarantee the confidentiality of HTLV-III testing, activists here expressed optimism that the Legislature will continue to vote against AIDS-related discrimination.

House Bill 5491, sponsored by John E. McDonough (D-Boston), co-sponsored by Sherwood Guernsey (D-Williamstown) and Marjorie Clapprood (D-Sharon, Stoughton), and co-authored by

the AIDS Law Project of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), would provide that 1) no health care provider or facility administer the test without the written consent of the person to be treated, 2) no health care provider or facility disclose the results of the test to anyone other than the person tested, unless the person tested gives consent, 3) no health care provider or facility identify a person as having been tested, 4) no employer require the HTLV-III test as a condition for employment.

According to Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and a lobbyist for the bill, 5491 passed on a voice vote without floor debate, despite opposition from

the Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), a group that represents manufacturers in the state. Martha Bernard, director of communications for AIM, told GCN that the business roundtable was not opposed to the HTLV-III confidentiality bill in particular, but generally "oppose[d] to any restriction on employers doing any bodily fluid testing." Bernard cited the safety of other employees as the primary rationale for this position, despite the overwhelming evidence that the HTLV-III virus cannot be transmitted through casual contact, and thus, should pose no threat in the workplace.

According to Isaacson, Caucus members lobbying for the bill were

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*LaRouche strikes again*

## AIDS Quarantine Measure for California Ballot?

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

SACRAMENTO, CA—As GCN goes to press, a group affiliated with Lyndon LaRouche may have garnered enough signatures to place an initiative on the California ballot that would allow for the quarantine of people with AIDS.

The group, the Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee, claims to have gathered over 700,000 signatures calling for a referendum. State law requires 393,000 verified signatures to place a question before the voters. The deadline for signatures was May 22.

The initiative calls on the state department of health to make AIDS a reportable disease, and to use all its powers to enforce and confirm the state health and safety code. That code says, in part, that the department of health "may take possession or control of the body of any living person" who has an "infectious, contagious, and communicable disease."

"It could mean quarantine, it could mean the restriction of movement, it could exclude people from school," said AIDS activist Laurie McBride. McBride is a member of a statewide coalition of AIDS groups that formed to combat repressive bills in the state legislature. The coalition has yet to be named. She said that should petition signatures be validated, the coalition will organize against the referendum.

According to a spokesperson

for the initiative committee, the ballot proposal merely requires that AIDS be made a reportable disease. "The initiative takes it out of the category of a gay rights issue, and puts it into the category of a medical issue," said Dave, who refused to be identified by last name. Dave claimed that the initiative would not require either mandatory testing or quarantine: "that would be up to the discretion of the state board of health; but if it does require quarantine and screening, it does." Dave said the group has no position on gay and lesbian rights.

Dave compared AIDS to typhoid, saying that if quarantine was justified for the latter, it should also be justified for the former. When reminded that typhoid can be spread by casual contact, but AIDS cannot, he replied, "I would be for it [the initiative] even if you saw it [AIDS] as a very serious venereal disease."

The petitions are still largely within county secretary of state offices. The county offices have five days to conduct a preliminary count of the signatures and get them to the main office, where they will be validated. According to Barbara Lee, an elections analyst for the Secretary of State, thus far 3,300 signatures have been received from 16 counties.

*—filed from Boston*

Note: See California AIDS Bills story, page 3.



# News Notes

## the queen's english includes 'wimmin'

LONDON — "Wimmin" is among the new entries in the fourth and final volume of a supplement updating the Oxford English Dictionary, according to the New York *Times*. "Wimmin" is defined in the Oxford as a semiphotonic spelling of women, adopted by some feminists.

Other words accorded official status include "yuppie," "yuck," "unisex," and "yo-yo."

— Stephanie Poggi

## did you see?

BOSTON — The Sunday *Globe* of May 11 featured an editorial on the "lessons" learned as a result of the foster care policy controversy. The newspaper that was the first to draw negative attention to the foster placement of two boys with two gay men claims to have learned the following "difficult" lessons: that, despite the arguments of "homosexual activists," "no one has the *right* to serve as a foster parent... that the rights of children require foster care in the most stable home environment possible," and that foster parents should ideally be trained "providers of a professional service" rather than "just good-hearted people helping out." The *Globe* defines stable homes as the year-old foster policy does, settings "as close as possible to the traditional model of husband and wife with children of their own."

The editorial also applauds Human Services Secretary Philip Johnston for convening a panel to study the state's foster care system and to recommend changes. The *Globe* neglects to mention that the panel was initiated in response to those same "homosexual activists" and others who objected to the removal of the boys from the gay home and the foster care policy that now prohibits such placements.

The editorial concludes that the state's children are "the winners."

To write to the *Globe*, address letter to: Letters to the Editor, The Boston *Globe*, Boston, MA 02107. Letters must be signed, and must include address and daytime and evening telephone numbers for verification.

— Stephanie Poggi



Ellen Shub

## big mt. spring gathering

BIG MOUNTAIN, AZ—A Dineh elder speaks to a women's circle, April 26, at the Spring gathering in protest of the scheduled relocation of thousands of Dineh and Hopi people living here. A gay and lesbian circle was also held at the gathering which drew approximately 300 people.

Relocation, which will give energy companies and the U.S. government access to coal and uranium on the land, is set for July 7, 1986. Activists are hopeful repeal legislation, to be introduced in June, will block the move. Regional support meetings are scheduled for June and July across the U.S. In Boston, a meeting to plan Big Mountain week, July 7-12, here, will be held June 2 at the U-Mass Boston lounge, at 7 p.m.

—Stephanie Poggi

## protecting the children?

WASHINGTON, DC — State and local laws should be changed to allow police to detain runaway, neglected and other "missing" children, according to a Justice Department advisory panel. The proposal, part of a report to Attorney General Edwin Meese III from the year-old Advisory Board on Missing Children, stated that children "do not have a right to freedom from custody." Meese has endorsed the recommendation, described by advisory panel head Mayor Donna Owens of Toledo, Ohio, as the most important of the panel's 24 recommendations.

The panel report said runaway children are far too often allowed to "walk out of police stations" or are placed in shelters that they are "free to leave at their pleasure, regardless of the risks and dangers of the street."

The risks of children were described as including published "glorification of drugs, suicide, murder, rape, incest, torture, bondage, and blood rituals" which might lead the children to seek "counterculture values." The report also called for further study of conflicts between constitutional protections of freedom of speech and the "lurid, everyday depictions of perversions in magazines, rock music lyrics, videos and movies."

— Stephanie Poggi



Ellen Shub

**Lesbians active in the Boston Pledge of Resistance discuss strategy during a blockade of the Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Mass. Otis is used as a training base for Special Forces (Green Berets), the most highly trained U.S. personnel active in Central American war zones.**

**Thirty-two arrests resulted from the protests. Activists noted brutal and racist treatment during the arrests and court proceedings. Trials are pending.**

—Loie Hayes

## possible aids vaccine studied

BETHESDA, MD — Researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) here reported a study on a possible vaccine for AIDS in the April 10 issue of *Nature*, a British scientific journal. According to *Au Courant*, the researchers found that mice injected with a vaccine made up of small-pox vaccine and the HTLV-III virus developed antibodies to the virus.

According to Bernard Moss of NIAID, the vaccine could be tried in humans to fight AIDS. "It has not been demonstrated, but at least we have a tool now to see whether or not we can protect with this."

— Stephanie Poggi

## drug hike protesters claim they were sold out

COSTA MESA, CA — Members of a coalition fighting the price hike of ribavirin charge that a community group doing independent research on the drug called off protests against its manufacturer in exchange for funding. Ribavirin, a treatment for AIDS available in Mexico, but not yet licensed by the Food and Drug Administration, was recently hiked from \$7 to \$20.50 per box of dozen capsules by its manufacturer, ICN Pharmaceuticals. (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 43.) According to the *Bay Area Reporter* (B.A.R.), a number of activists involved in organizing a price hike protest for May 6 believe Project Inform, the research group, cancelled the demonstration because ICN offered them funding.

Project Inform, a group that had been working with the ad hoc coalition to organize the May 6 protest, called off the event an hour before it was scheduled to begin. They distributed a leaflet, claiming that "a satisfactory solution has been found to the drug pricing problem in Mexico. As a result, no further action with respect to this problem is necessary."

Martin Delaney, one of the managers of Project Inform, told the B.A.R. that Project Inform had received funds from ICN, but that cancellation of the demonstration was unrelated. According to Delaney, the protest was called off because Project Inform gained new information about the causes for the price increase. Delaney said the 300 percent increase "had to do with marketing conditions there [Mexico] and we're a very small part of the market." He also said people traveling to Mexico from the U.S. could buy the drug at a reduced cost because of the dollar-peso exchange rate.

But other activists who helped organize the demonstration refused to accept the Project Inform explanation. Nutritionist and health writer Ted Smith told the B.A.R. that Milan Panic, chairman of the board of directors of ICN, "left a message on my tape telling me he had seen the leaflet calling for a demonstration and that he didn't want any adverse publicity and he said that they were willing to fund Project Inform."

Activist Fred Schull of San Diego also rejects the notion that ICN was forced to raise the price due to marketing conditions. He noted that the price hike makes "it literally impossible for Mexicans to purchase [ribavirin]. ICN justifies it by the inflation in Mexico and cost increases. That's just not true." An April 25 press release from Project Inform itself states that "ICN's subsidiary, Viratek [the manufacturer of ribavirin] reported substantial first quarter earnings of \$2,043,000... Viratek attributed its rebounding profits to the sale of Virazole [ribavirin]. . . those profits were obtained before the price hike despite high Mexican inflation."

— Stephanie Poggi

## women and power conference

GORHAM, ME — A conference on "Women and Power" will be held at the Gorham campus of the University of Southern Maine here, June 5 to 8.

Speakers include Gloria Anzaldua, co-editor of *This Bridge Called My Back: Writing by Radical Women of Color*; Barbara MacDonald, co-author of *Look Me in the Eye: Old Women, Aging and Ageism*; Chrystos, Native American poet; Lois Reckitt, vice-president of the National Organization for Women; Johnella Butler, chair of Afro-American Studies at Smith College; and Carter Heyward, author of *Our Passion for Justice* and Episcopal priest and professor at Episcopal Divinity School of Cambridge, Mass.

Workshop titles include: Christian-based Communities and Empowerment; Twenty Years of NOW: What Have We Learned?; Low Income Women and Power; Lesbian Perspectives on the "Good Society"; Resolving Conflicts in the Abortion Controversy; and Incest, Power, and Forgiveness.

For further information, call or write: Feminist Spiritual Community, 9 Deering Street, Portland, Maine 04104, (207) 773-2294.

— Stephanie Poggi

## updated directory for lesbian and gay alcoholics

NEW YORK — The National Association of Lesbian and Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NALGAP) is revising and updating the *National Facilities and Services Directory for Lesbian and Gay Alcoholics*. The directory is the only national listing of professional and peer level services for lesbian and gay alcoholics and chemically dependent persons.

For a copy of the listing form and for information on ordering the directory (\$5; publication anticipated August 1986) send a SASE to: Ron Vachon, NALGAP Directory, Gay and Lesbian Health Concerns, 125 Worth Street, Box 67, New York, NY 10013.

— Stephanie Poggi

## aids walk new york



Lee Snider/Photo Images



NEW YORK—A walker for AIDS (top photo) waits to register for the ten kilometer walkathon benefitting the Gay Men's Health Crisis, May 18. Walkers head up Central Park West (bottom photo), with over 6,000 participants raising \$700,000 from 40,000 donors.

Special guests included Virginia Apuzzo, Mayor Edward Koch, entertainer Peter Allen, and New York City Councilperson Ruth Messinger. According to Craig Miller, co-producer of the Walk, money raised will go to support services for people with AIDS and ARC, AIDS prevention and education, and toward lobbying efforts for increased funding for research on AIDS.

—Stephanie Poggi



# The 'Good' and 'Bad' of Calif.'s 40 AIDS Bills

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

SACRAMENTO, CA—Lawmakers in this state have proposed over 40 bills concerning AIDS for the current legislative session. Among these are a number of bills that would have required mandatory HTLV-III antibody testing for a wide range of people. At present, it appears that most of the testing legislation is dead or dying, while positive AIDS bills are proceeding through the legislature.

The 41 proposed laws were nearly evenly divided between what AIDS activists here were calling "good" bills and "bad." Of the sixteen "bad" bills, most called for mandatory antibody testing of such diverse groups as prisoners, prostitutes, people convicted of "sex crimes," and applicants for marriage licenses. Some of the remaining repressive legislation would make it a felony for a person with AIDS to give blood, and

would have added a three-year increase to the prison term of a person with AIDS who committed a "sex crime."

Countering these bills were a number of proposals that would strengthen confidentiality of HTLV-III antibody testing; that would increase and expand MediCal (the state version of Medicare) benefits and eligibility; that would provide funds for education in hospitals and schools; and that would create a standing purchase order for any future FDA-approved vaccine to AIDS, and would provide incentives for vaccine development by limiting manufacturer's liability.

About 30 bills have survived. On May 19, SB 1545, which, among other provisions, would have required the antibody test as

a condition of parole, was amended so that it would not require testing. SB 1478, which would have required the same test for marriage license applicants, now only requires that they be given information on AIDS. Most of the other mandatory testing legislation either has been withdrawn by sponsors, has died in committee, or is progressing in one house in the legislature without concurrent progress in the other.

According to Cleve Jones, of the Friends Committee on Legislation of California, battles continue on a number of bills. SB 1513 would permit the Chief Medical Officers of state prisons or youth authorities to order an inmate or ward to submit to the antibody test. This bill was proposed by Senator John Doolittle, a conser-

vative Republican legislator from Southern California. Doolittle was the chief opponent to AB 1, the state gay and lesbian rights bill.

Another major battle appears to be gearing up around AD 3667, sponsored by Assemblymember Art Agnos. The bill strengthens testing confidentiality and extends disability protections to people with AIDS. According to Larry Bush, of Agnos' office, the Republican leadership is trying "to sabotage the bill and protections surrounding disability." The bill was defeated on the Assembly floor by one vote, and should be up for reconsideration by the end of May. Most of the other liberal-sponsored bills are slowly making their way through the legislature.

The number of AIDS-related  
*Continued on page 11*

## Porn Commission

*Continued from page 1*

state or federal restrictions on the material available to consenting adults.

Two members of the commission have issued a dissent to the final report. Judith Becker, a professor of psychology at Columbia University, and Ellen Levine, editor of *Women's Day* magazine, disagree with many of the commission's major recommendations and the conclusion that most pornography can lead to violence. The two commissioners stated that it was unrealistic for the commission to so quickly reach these conclusions given the conflicting and tentative social science research in the area of pornography and violence. Ellen Levine told *GCN* that their dissent will be incorporated into the final report with all the other statements and that she has no idea how the Reagan Administration will view it. "It's a very reasoned dissent and they'll have

Arlington County, Va.

Civil libertarians and many feminists have also expressed criticism of the Meese Commission in the past year, charging that the final report would be used to usher in a wave of censorship and repressive legislation. Although the *New York Times* reported that Evalina Kane, staff coordinator of Women Against Pornography, described the commission's report as "a major breakthrough in raising the consciousness of the country," many feminists have warned that material by and for women, lesbians, and gay men would be threatened by the commission. Demonstrations were held against the commission during its hearings in Los Angeles and in New York City.

Since some of the commission's recommendations directly relate to the sex industry, there is concern about increased violence against women workers as a result of

## Powell Vote Decisive in Challenge to Sodomy Laws

By Gordon Gottlieb

BOSTON—The fate of the strongest challenge to states' sodomy laws—now before the U.S. Supreme Court—may be decided by the vote of one Supreme Court justice, according to a lawyer who helped prepare the challenge.

The other justices are expected to break down on a 4-4 liberal/conservative split, so Justice Lewis Powell will provide the swing vote, predicted Harvard Law School Professor Kathleen Sullivan at the second annual meeting of the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association, held May 20. Consequently, lawyers challenging the sodomy law built their case around issues that are of particular interest to Powell—the sanctity of the home and the right to privacy.

Gay and legal activists view the case, *Hardwick v. Bowers*, as the best legal challenge to one traditional source of governmental homophobia and discrimination, state sodomy laws. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 38). The case involves Michael Hardwick, a gay man from Atlanta, who sued the state of Georgia and its attorney general, Michael Bowers, following a 1982 sodomy charge. A police officer, who came to Hardwick's home for an unrelated purpose, was let in by Hardwick's roommate, entered Hardwick's bedroom, and discovered him having sex with another man. Hardwick was arrested, but charges were subsequently dropped. Nonetheless, Hardwick went ahead with his challenge of the Georgia sodomy law. A lower

court supported Bowers, but the Federal Appeals Court for the Eleventh Circuit found that Hardwick's right to privacy included the right to engage in the sexual activities banned under the law. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 3).

"This is the ultimate case of cops in the bedroom," Sullivan said. "We didn't need to conjure up [this scenario]." But given the conservative bent of the Court, Sullivan and her Harvard Law School colleague, constitutional scholar Laurence Tribe, couched their arguments in terms of keeping citizens from unwarranted state intervention, rather than emphasizing issues of love or sex. "So this became a 'deregulation case,' a true case for the '80s," Sullivan quipped.

Powell's emphasis on the sanctity of the home—the literal structure rather than a metaphoric protective shelter—emerged in another case just released by the Court. In a case allowing aerial searches over fenced residences by police with no search warrant, Powell dissented from the majority, citing privacy protections the Constitution has long provided for the home. Powell's decision to address the home issue bodes well for the *Hardwick* case, Sullivan maintained, given that Powell "is not known for liberalism in criminal law cases."

The other strategy Tribe and Sullivan utilized was the preparation of rebuttals to anticipated fears that removing sodomy laws would lead to the legalization of other illegal but erratically enforced sexual practices, such as

adultery, incest, prostitution, polygamy, and fornication. In their brief, the lawyers drew a distinction between sodomy (as well as fornication, that is, consensual heterosexual intercourse between unmarried people) which is private, non-commercial and consensual, and the other sexual practices that "enter the public domain." "We wanted to ward off their [legalistic] nightmares," Sullivan said.

Unless the Court avoids making a definitive ruling (by ruling the case moot, for instance), the case will represent the first time the Supreme Court will explicitly address a gay/lesbian rights issue. In other cases, the Court has either refused to hear cases, handed down decisions without comment, or handed down decisions on a 4-4 vote which sets no legal precedent.

Even if the Court finds for Hardwick, and Sullivan is guardedly optimistic that it will, the ruling will not directly address the constitutionality of sodomy laws. Rather it will establish whether Georgia will be subject to a heightened standard of proof requiring it to give a substantial or compelling justification for the law, when the case goes back to district court.

Sullivan said several sodomy cases across the country remain undecided pending the Court's decision.

Activists have pointed out that the *Hardwick* case only addresses private, consensual sex between adults and would have no legal bearing on such issues as intergenerational or public sex.



Protesters march outside Harvard's John F. Kennedy School as award for "most distinguished public service" is presented to Attorney General Edwin Meese III, May 20. The demonstrators said Meese's attacks on pornography, voting rights, affirmative action and all civil liberties made him unfit for the award.

to respect it for its reason if nothing else," she said.

Many of the researchers who provided data to the commission are also critical of the report. Some of the major conclusions of the panel were based on the research of Edward Donnerstein, a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin who is one of the leading researchers on pornography. Donnerstein's research indicates that rape and demeaning attitudes toward women are related more to depictions of violence than to explicit sexuality. Donnerstein said that the commission's "...conclusions seem bizarre...", according to the *New York Times*. The *Times* also reported that several of the main researchers charged that the commission's report rests on a biased reading of inconclusive, complicated, and often contradictory evidence.

The objectivity of the commission has been subject to skepticism since the body was originally convened by Attorney General Edwin Meese III. Many of the panel members are law enforcement officials and conservatives with staunch anti-pornography views. The chairman, Henry Hudson, is a prosecutor noted for his crusade against pornography in

tighter obscenity law enforcement. Rachel West, of the U.S. Prostitutes Union in San Francisco, told *GCN* that the Meese Commission is "...a direct attack on sex industry workers and an attempt to force women underground. Prostitution is about economics and women finding a way to survive. This Administration is really into attacking that. There will be more harassment of women and it will make it virtually impossible for women to work in the sex industry."

Other feminists are worried about the commission's appropriation of feminist language for potentially repressive ends. Nan Hunter, of the Gay Rights Project of the ACLU, told *GCN*, "They're trying to dress up the old idea of obscenity prosecution with what they perceive as a trendy new rationale of concern about women. But they're not recommending anything that women really care about, like massive implementation of sex education in the schools...or the allocation of any resources that would increase women's safety. [This report] could contribute to any number of social purity campaigns on the local or national level."

—filed from Boston

## HTLV-III

*Continued from page 1*

concerned not only about the AIM opposition, but about the possible negative influence of a Boston *Globe* article published the day of the vote. The article reported the recommendations of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials that the names of people testing HTLV-III positive be recorded and that their sexual partners be traced. The newly released document calls surveillance "fundamental to the control and prevention of disease." Other public health organizations, including the federal Public Health Service and the U.S. Conference of Public Health Officers do not support the recommendations.

But despite the potential for a lengthy debate, Isaacson said Caucus lobbyists "were able to

talk all of the [House] dissenters out of it." She added that the vote is especially noteworthy as "a lot of states have gone in the opposite direction," moving to eliminate the confidentiality of medical records. Kevin Cathcart, director of GLAD, concurred, saying, "I hope [the vote] means people are becoming more educated about AIDS, about discrimination — and about the need to combat AIDS-related discrimination."

Another AIDS activist, Bob Andrews, told *GCN* he was relieved at the results of the vote: "For everybody who is at high risk, this is important — it will provide the protection they need." He added that "too many people go get the test thinking only their doctor will get the information. Usually, that's not the case."

But Stephen Ansolobehere, also a member of the AIDS Law Project, cautioned that the bill, if passed by the Senate, "is only a short-term solution because I don't think we're going to be using this test [HTLV-III antibody] much longer." Ansolobehere cited the progress being made in developing a test for presence of the virus itself, rather than for the antibodies.

Both Cathcart and Isaacson noted that negative votes on AIDS and gay/lesbian-related issues have occurred here in the not so distant past, offering encouragement that the state legislature may be changing for the better. Isaacson commented, "Our community could use a little morale booster right now."



# Community Voices

## Immediate Gay Community News Job Opening (with new salary)

Our Display Advertising Coordinator has just been hired as *GCN's* Coordinating Editor, so we need to fill her shoes immediately.

**Advertising Coordinator:** Obtain display ads and develop strategies for increased advertising. Send out monthly billings. Coordinate advertising representatives. Evaluate and update ad rates and sales materials. Work with Art Coordinator to design ads. Participate in weekly workings of *GCN*, including decision-making, fund-raising, collaborating on editorials, etc.

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**All *GCN* positions require** a commitment to gay/lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racist/anti-classist politics, and the collective decision making process.

**Salary/benefits:** Beginning in June all positions pay \$180/wk with a collective raise to \$200/wk in December, plus fully paid health/life insurance, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. *GCN* offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs, with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

**To apply:** Please send resume/cover letter immediately to *GCN* Advertising Search Committee, 167 Tremont St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02111. Phone inquiries welcome: (617) 426-4469.

Lesbians/gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

## insulting to working class people

Dear *GCN*:

Some aspects of Ladies Against Women's presentation at the Strand were delightful; some were sophomoric; and some were politically inconsistent.

I enjoyed Mrs. T-Bill, Colonel Lee, and the imitations of Phyllis Schlafly and Jerry Falwell. But some of the other characters conveyed the idea that uneducated women and uneducated working-class people are the problem.

This is an extremely difficult issue, because female gullibility and proletarian sexism are indeed deplorable. Yet I am sure the creators of this show perceive themselves as allies of women in general and of the proletariat in general.

Farce is a fine vehicle for attacking powerful enemies, not powerless ones. The political naivete of your average cheerleader can be hilarious, but when we laugh at her, we are laughing *with* those who benefit by her naivete, and who want her to stay just as she is. Such a subtle problem may require a more serious genre of drama.

Mimi Gerstell  
Winthrop, MA

## they don't want to understand it

Dear *GCN*:

You know in the almost 6 years that I have been locked away I have made a hobby of studying these people called 'human beings'.

The ones that will put a person down just because of their being different.

For example, a person who is gay will get put down, called all kinds of names, such as faggot, take it in the ass bitch, sewer surfer, just to name a few. But then the 'straits' will turn around and when he gets to feeling horny search out some gay person and try to get sex, sometimes by force. I have heard of and seen it again and again. But the system will do nothing about it except sit back and laugh at the victim and let the rapist go free.

And if a person who is in prison because he had a consensual sexual relation with someone, as the law puts it, "underaged," he gets all kinds of hell if people find out about it. And, believe me, they do find out. Sometimes it's guards who go through a person's file and then tell other inmate stooges to spread rumors. This prisoner may be lucky to come away from the prison in one piece. I've known a few who have been taken out by medi-vac helicopter in very serious shape. Others may go out in a wheelchair, or a pine box.

Some of the guys might place themselves in "protective" custody, but that may not help. They can still arrange to put urine or metal chips etc etc in your food, or throw things into your cell. There are many different forms of harassment.

Sex with "minors" (or sex with adults), if it is forced, that is not right; but when it is wanted by both persons, many people don't want to understand it. We should ask ourselves why such strong opinions come up on the basis of so little direct experience?

Sincerely,  
A prisoner  
(Name withheld by request)

***GCN* welcomes letters to the editor. To minimize delays, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPPACED, and limited to five typed pages. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are only printed on a space-available basis. Send letters to Community Voices, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02111.**

## neither hip nor funny

Dear *GCN*:

RE: The interview with Donna Deitch, Sarah Schulman's review of "Desert Hearts" and the review of "My Two Loves"

Give me a break! I hope you'll excuse me if I don't find it hip or even particularly funny to refer to lesbian/gay women as *dykes*, *dykettes*, or *dykey* (any more than I think of my gay brothers as fags or queers). It's every bit as wearisome and irritating as the "well, *they* call *themselves* niggers..." arguments of the not too distant past.

Does anyone else find it vaguely embarrassing to see *Gay Community News* liberally sprinkled with such pejorative dreck, while the presumably basically straight press has much better public manners suggesting at least a surface respect?

As a little test exercise, try reversing the terms in the two cover headlines: Desert Hearts Hollywood "discovers" *Dykes*, and Supreme Court Refuses Disabled *Lesbian's* Appeal.

I really look forward to the day we quit being cutesy and hacking away at our self-image. There are plenty of people working full-time to make us look ridiculous or sick.

Thanks to Donna Deitch and her cast and crew for working so long and hard to put together a warm (and hot), funny, human little film. I think she struck an excellent balance. I'd work for free for someone of such integrity. As she said in her screen cameo: "If you don't play, you can't win."

Respectfully,  
Janis Jones  
Sunland, CA

## apartheid and the gay games

Dear *GCN*:

Let me first gently chide you for the use of the heading "Scottish Queers Plan Boycott" in your number of 1st March. With us the word "queer" is a pejorative term used by homophobes. We are lesbians, gays, or homosexuals — not queers, thank you.

We were, however, delighted at the space you gave to the controversy about the International Gay Games. This weekend (5th April) our international committee considered the correspondence that we have at long last received from the Games' organizers, and we have decided to maintain our position.

We were certainly not satisfied with Shawn Kelly's defence of the SFA&A position. In our view, it is just not enough to be against Apartheid — we all have to take positive action to support those in South Africa who are demanding a boycott of all cultural, sporting and economic links with that country. Simon Nkoli, the leading black gay activist, who is on trial for his life, is a member of the United Democratic Front which is demanding such a boycott. It is pusillanimous for the International Gay Games organizers to tell us that they regard sport as a vehicle for social issues, and that they are using athletics as a way of working together. This is the standpoint of many who support apartheid outside South Africa, and we do not think that gay people should be in any way associated with this argument.

We are very anxious that if gay athletes from South Africa appear at the Games (in 1985 GASA announced that up to 15 would be travelling to San Francisco), they should be excluded — or better still told in advance that they will not be welcomed.

Love and Peace,  
Yours sincerely,  
Ian Christie, Convener  
Edinburgh, Scotland

## don't laugh at the victims

Dear *GCN*:

I would like to make a few critical remarks about the recent Boston performance of the Ladies against Women. One of the things that makes good political comedy innovative (and humorous) is that it reverses the normal order of things, (i.e. rather than making fun of women, members of radical minorities, retarded adults, etc. as the butt of a joke), the tables are turned and we laugh at the cause of the oppression instead of at its victims. *Really* good political comedy can therefore be an important tool in combatting oppression. Political satire adds another twist by using heavy irony or sarcasm to expose and discredit vice or folly. Attempts by the Plutonium Players, however, to create skits which use satire, not only often fail, they fail badly, using blatantly classist stereotypes which reinforce rather than help destroy oppression.

The most obvious example of this came early in the performance with the appearance on stage of the LAW's men's auxiliary. Sloppily dressed as hunters and acting throughout the performance as militaristic buffoons, the men of the LAW's men's auxiliary were portrayed as white working class men. This contrasted sharply with the more consistent but still problematic portrayal of the Ladies themselves as either wealthy or middle-class women. The men spoke with slurred speech, frequently mispronounced words, and acted in ways which are stereotypically descriptive of the rural working class. There were very few elements of satire in their portrayal and absolutely no attempt to reverse the normal order of things by allowing us to laugh at their victimization. We were meant to laugh (and many did laugh uproariously) *at* them. In other words, we were meant to approve of and find humorous the assumption that rural working class men are stupid, macho, easily duped slobs whose chief interests are hunting and playing military games. As things continue, these men are further portrayed as the pawns of wealthy, white women. It doesn't take much political consciousness to figure out that something is very wrong with this picture of oppression.

The overall assumptions that the LAW make about class backgrounds in their performances need to be seriously re-examined. Each lady seems to come from a slightly different strata of upper or middle class America with appropriately designated props for each (a fur stole for the ultra rich, a pill-box hat and recipes for the dowdy middle-aged middle-class woman, and pom-poms for the younger middle-class yuppie cheerleader) yet they somehow all appear equally powerful. The script also takes as its basic assumption that it is middle-class women who cause problems for the rest of us. By not recognizing in even a minor way that these women are themselves oppressed by much more powerful forces, the play exists in a vacuum, failing to make any political message at all.

I suspect that the reasons for this lack of message and failure to examine the script's inherent classism come from two separate yet related sources. I think that the first and more dangerous reason for the script's failure comes from a kind of general (yet especially pervasive in the gay and women's movement) misunderstanding of the importance of class issues amongst U.S. feminists and other political activists. This ignorance becomes particularly dangerous when publicly presented as an acceptable ideology. The Ladies (like most white middle-class activists) must take on the challenge to educate themselves about the intricate relationships between class, sex and race and should stay off stage until they've substantially cleaned up their act.

In speaking with one of the performers after the show, she pointed out to me that the skit which had particularly upset me was taken from an action at the National Rifle Association. She said that the two men who performed the skit were both from working class backgrounds while none of the women performers were. Even though the skit had often been criticized by audiences and the Ladies had suggested its removal, the men defended the skit and argued that it should be kept in the show. My guess is that *perhaps* in the context of a demonstration at the NRA the skit might have been slightly more appropriate. However, when added into the longer script where we are meant to laugh at the majority of the characters because they are rich or middle-class women, the appearance of working class characters not only breaks up the satire of the middle-class defined within the play, but suddenly makes the working class the butt of the joke. And for heaven's sake, if part of your group has some questions about the appropriateness of material, and if on several occasions audiences have called skits offensive, why not get rid of them until you've ironed out the problems?

LAW skits can be very creative and innovative in a time when picket lines and demonstrations have become all too mundane and can use the kind of refreshing laughter that the Ladies provide. My suggestion to the Ladies is that they keep their performances out of the theatre and in the streets until they do some serious reworking of their script.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Sowinski  
Somerville, MA

## GayCommunityNews

Cover design by Ina Cohen

*Gay Community News* is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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# Speaking Out

## A Response to C.A.I.R.

By Ted Giovannini

I have just read Art Cohen's article *Gay Conservatives: Personal Freedom-in a Free Market Economy* and I wish to take issue with both of these (gay) men! I find their high handed naivete a little hard to believe and am amazed that being in at least one minority group didn't put no sense into their heads! Or, does being raised well-to-do and white make people blatantly shallow (being neither I wouldn't know)? While Mr. Cohen balanced the article with admirable objectivity, I would like to help him just a little bit.

I started out the article with sympathy; I too have felt out of place in the gay community, my ethno-racial differences, disadvantaged education and political radicalism have always kept me apart and made me feel different. I feel that the gay liberation movement has allowed minor victories to dull the cutting edge of its radicalness, and that its inability to attract minority participants has always been glaringly obvious.

C.A.I.R. positions itself between the anti-gay New Right and the liberal/radical elements of gay liberation, espousing the Republican line of individual rights and freedom from government interference. They back President Reagan, the New Right's fair haired boy, who runs down a line for school prayer, aid to parochial schools and enforcement of the traditional family while being vehemently anti-abortion. I am curious to know how laws against abortion supports individual rights or freedom from government interference when it denies a woman the right to make a very personal choice about what is going on inside her very own body. Enforcement of the traditional family would seem to suggest denial of divorce and harassment of single parenthood, wouldn't this too be a violation of their ideal of limited government rhetoric? Or does minimal government interference only apply when it's multinational corporations and laissez-faire economics that's involved. How does forcing the outmoded, impractical institution of eternal marriage on society possibly limit governmental intervention, especially when the needed legislation is monopoly busting laws, fair pricing regulations and a more realistic view of everyday economic necessities.

Mr. Decker tells us that CAIR educates Republicans to the view that bigotry is a basic violation of conservative philosophy. I disagree wholeheartedly, bigotry is a basic building block in conservative philosophy. It makes conservative politics work around the world, from very rightist South Africa's apartheid policy to the powerful, conservative elements in the very revolutionary Soviet Union, who have such an abominable anti-Jewish policy. East or West, conservatism has racism, sexism, classism, ethnocentrism and homophobia as its basic policies.

CAIR pushes a line promoting patriotism, religious faith, personal and economic freedom and hard work. I'm as patriotic as can be, I believe in government of the people, by the people and for the people and work to see that someday America will be such a country, not the monopolistic, corrupt military-industrial complex of economic and rhetorical hypocrisy that it is at present. Religious faith, even as an atheist I believe in Freedom of Religion, which includes the freedom not to be religious, but deeply resent all the insidious ties between church and state in this nation, from repressive blue laws to the destructive religious piety that censors our public medias, all of which is repressive, puritanical bullshit. Personal/economic freedom, the system we suffer under stifles both freedoms, as well as all the others that our intelligently written Constitution and Bill of Rights tell us we have, but that politically religious repression along with McCarthyish witch hunts, red baiting and queer baiting deny us. Hard work, is CAIR for real(?), what do they think it takes for the poor to survive? Unemployment compensation and welfare benefits are not unearned, or vacations, the poor do not profit by them, unlike the rich who take unfair advantage of government welfare programs with their luxurious and ludicrous tax deductions and business subsidies!

CAIR says that, "Only under a limited and frugal government, a market economy and a social structure based on free and voluntary association can we as gay and lesbian Americans fully be ourselves..." I had to think about such an ambiguous and loaded statement for a while, my limited education and all. A limited and frugal government with a market economy sounds diabolically economically repressive to me, our present government is terribly frugal with social programs, though it seems to have a problem limited its military programs, which definitely adversely affects the poor, and our market economy has disenfranchised a lot of us out of a place to live and a couple of decent meals a week. It's a failure now, how can it work later? Free and voluntary association smacks of racism, classism, sexism, ageism and ethnocentrism so clearly that it proves itself to be unworkable to become a freeing agent for the gay community, such association also smacks of homophobia.

Bob Ebersole admits that without radical and liberal gays that we would be a powerless group. So why does he believe that old oppressors are now our friends? Am I missing something, or is that sort of logic not really asinine?

Mr. Decker claims that Ronald Reagan is our friend, that about a man who has repeatedly made anti-gay statements and whose eleventh-hour opposition to the Briggs Amendment was weakly worded and toned with reluctance. His denial of a warless administration is made whimsical in light of burgeoning defense spending, a brewing Vietnam in Central America, and the goading of a fellow ultraconservative, Mr. Quadafi, over territorial spats. He also supports dismantling affirmative action and social programs, claiming that these represent too much government. I presently live in Connecticut's Fairfield County, the wealthiest country in our nation, a Republican stronghold, a fortress of conservatism. It is the conservative's paradise, it is also racist, sexist, ageist, classist, and above all homophobic displaying attitudes and mores that were antiquated twenty years ago in nearly every other part of the this country. It is economically healthy, but socially retarded, conservatism will not free us, it will push us right back into the closet!

Mr. Decker asks us if the Federal government should be involved in endorsing homosexuality as a lifestyle, and then answers his own question, "No!" Then I ask, "Should the Federal government endorse (as it does and wants to do even more) a heterosexual lifestyle?" The answer however is irrelevant, they do it, and to equal out the equation endorsing a gay lifestyle would give it the same social legitimacy as a straight lifestyle. Or is that too much affirmative action for CAIR?

He also contends that the New Right's attacks on gays/lesbians is not carried out by true conservatives, they are no friends of his. He's sort of right, they are no friends of his, no matter what his political views are, but he is wrong to think that they are not true conservatives, they are. Mr. Decker, give them enough rope, and they will hang you!

He goes even further by saying that rent control limits the right to own property (that's a right?). Not having rent control, Mr. Decker, limits the dire necessity to afford to keep a roof over most people's heads, ask anyone in Boston's South End who is now living in a car instead of an apartment, working people, Mr. Decker. He also claims that rent control is a scam but fails to explain what scam is; he ought to try being a tenant that's being rent gouged out of a place to live, that's a real scam!

Mr. Ebersole also grills my grits by insisting that there should be no gay agenda that endorses rent control, disarmament or abortion. We should endorse all that and more, the fight to save Our Mother, the planet Earth, from pollution, is our fight, the fight to feed hungry people is our fight, the fight to obtain even a survivable standard of living for every

American is also our fight! We are tenants, we are the hungry, we are the homeless, we are the working poor, every woman should have the right to choose what goes on in her body and we all lose if there is nuclear war, or if our fragile planet dies from deliberate abuse and neglect.

Mr. Decker claims that "smart minorities" use the discrimination against them for their own benefit. Smart minorities is an insulting, prejudicial phrase to those who do not fall into his categorization (and perhaps his personal preference?). He claims gay entrepreneurship as an example of succeeding, but I take objection to his reasoning. Is it success, or do we try to be our own bosses simply because there is legal and unchallengeable job discrimination against gays, or even someone a company suspects of being gay. We try to own our homes because of the same sort of legal housing discrimination against gay people. It ain't success, it's second best.

Then he goes on to really fire me up by expounding on the fact that the larger landlords are gay, and that they have cleaned up the slums. He says that we should be anti-rent control in support of gay landlords. Bullshit, my gay landlord practiced housing discrimination, maintaining an overpriced eyesore in a slum neighborhood and kept my security deposit for totally fraudulent reasons. A gay landlord is nobody's brother or sister, they're a landlord first, gay second. Urban renewal is all well and good, except it ain't no good to the area's previous residents, they can no longer afford to live in their old neighborhoods, their houses lost to the improvement that drives the ethno-racial character out of the neighborhood and makes it blatantly Yuppie.

Mr. Ebersole and Mr. Decker believe that everyone has an equal opportunity in America. They ignore the basic facts that the system has built-in inequalities where opportunity is concerned. The fact is that your skin color, sex, and your ethnic, educational and socio-economic backgrounds have more to do with getting or missing opportunities than being born in America can bestow on any minority person.

"Should progressive gays welcome gay conservatives into coalitions," the article sums up. I am a politically radical, gay person of color that fervently believes the political conservatism, with it's economic exploitiveness, is the root of all oppression. I also know that gay people are socialized in their socio-economic upbringing with its cultural and ethical ramifications that put Mr. Decker and Mr. Ebersole a million miles away from any reality I have ever known. I believe that any coalition seeking gay support should have input from both progressive and conservative gays. I feel it is imperative that we work together, debate the differences and try to find a gay agenda that we can all live with, who knows, we may actually get the chance to do a little consciousness raising in our conservative camp. My Native American ancestors are reputed to have a saying that asks a person to walk a mile in another's shoes before they judge them, I would like to give the members of CAIR a chance to do that, it's the only way we will ever learn to appreciate and accept each other.

"This society this incredible way of living divides us by class by color It says we are individual and alone and don't you forget it It says that only way out of our doom of our sex our class our race is some individual gift and character and hard work and then all we get all we ever get is to change class or color or sex to rise to bleach to masculinize an enormous game of musical chairs and that's only at its fairy tale Horatio Alger best that's only at its best"

A quote from the essay, *We're All in the Same Boat* by Rosario Morales, as published in the anthology, *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color*.

Ted Giovannini lives in Danbury, Conn.

**"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The GCN staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.**

### AIDS Resource List

**AIDS Action Committee — 661 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116, 536-7733.**

Education and support group for people with AIDS, their families, lovers, friends, and health care providers. Provides speakers, conducts forums, rap groups, hospice-trained volunteers, hotline information and referrals. Associated with Fenway Community Health Center.

**AIDS Action Line — 536-7733 or Massachusetts toll-free AIDS hotline, 1-800-235-2331.**

AIDS Action Committee service, information, referrals and befriending about AIDS.

**AIDS Hotline — Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program, City of Boston, 424-5916.**

Staff of public health nurses answer questions about AIDS, make referrals. Collects city-wide data from hospitals on AIDS cases, forwards data to Centers for Disease Control. Officially determines number of cases probable and under investigation.

**Fenway Community Health Center — 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 267-7573.**

A gay-sensitive health care facility. Hotline information, medical work-ups, diagnosis, referrals, counseling. Participates in research efforts.

**Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services — 600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111, 542-5188.**

Provides individual and group therapy. Groups available for friends and lovers of people with AIDS. (Services provided

without regard for individual's ability pay.) Counseling and HTLV-III blood screening services for individuals concerned with exposure to the virus associated with AIDS. Co-sponsored with Department of Public Health. (522-4090)

**Gay and Lesbian Hotline — 426-9371, Monday-Friday, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.** Provides information on AIDS, makes referrals. Associated with Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services.

**Haitian Committee on AIDS in Massachusetts — 177 Harvard Street, Dorchester, MA 02124, 436-2848.**

Provides information, referrals, support and emergency assistance to Haitians with AIDS and their families.

**Mayor's Committee on AIDS — 709A Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201, 725-3307.**

Coordinates efforts of federal, state, and city health agencies, produces educational material, collects data on cases, reviews policy. Umbrella organization. Media outlet. Conducts forums and provides speakers, distributes AIDS brochures, referrals.

**National Gay Task Force Hotline — 1-800-221-7044.**

Toll-free national hotline run by NGTF to provide information and referrals.

**Springfield Downtown Ministry/Council of Churches — 293 Bridge Street, #205, Springfield, MA 01103-1402, 737-4125.** Counseling and referrals.

#### Defense Committee Update

Planning for a Foster Equality/Pink Triangle action for the gay and lesbian pride march will be the focus of the next coordinating committee meeting on Wednesday, June 4. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. at 67 Pleasant St. New members are

invited to come to the orientation at 7 p.m.

For more information about the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, call their hotline, 522-3468.



## A Visit with a Hetero-Psychic

# Desperately Seeking a Place in the Big Picture

By Susie Day

Okay. Let's talk straight facts. Boys have pee-pee tails; girls have woo-woos. When they grow up, the boys want to stick their pee-pee tails in the girls' woo-woos, and the girls let them. There is nothing else in this life you need to know. Everything that takes place upon the world's stage emanates from this irrefutable fact. God, Country, Personal Hygiene, the Stock Market: there are no small parts; only small actors.

It is in an effort to transcend this weary old in-out world that gay people often turn to the Beyond for perspective. Interpreters of the Beyond — crystal gazers, palmists, astrologers, people who pick winning lottery tickets — are able to offer us the Big Picture. The Big Picture is very consoling. It shows

God, Country, Personal Hygiene, and the Stock Market to be but tiny, ephemeral parts of a kinder and more comprehensive Whole. Boys whose pee-pee tails do not perk up at the sight of a woo-woo, and girls whose woo-woo inclinations take them far beyond the or-

dinary realm of pee-pee tail possibility, can find a place and a purpose in the Big Picture. Happiness is finally possible. Faeries are people, too.

The trouble is that Interpreters of the Beyond, like 90 percent of all earthlings, tend to do the pro-

scribed boy/girl thing with their private parts. Now, heterosexuality is god's gift to straight people, and we shouldn't begrudge them it one bit. But, with all their enthusiasm for the paranormal, you might expect these hetero-psychics to develop some degree of

understanding for lesbians and gay men. Not always. I just happen to have an example:

Feeling a disaffected urge for the Big Picture, I went to a psychic a few days ago. Ankha Inga.

Equipped with a business — as well as a sixth — sense, Ankha Inga kept strict control of her clients. No one was to get more than 60 minutes of her time; everyone was to get one of her Ankha Inga business cards. But she was an attractive, middle-aged woman with soft, blue eyes and a Scandinavian accent that reminded me of Liv Ullmann — the only blonde I could ever really love. Besides, I had to at least *like* Ankha; she charged 35 bucks a shot.

**Boys whose pee-pee tails do not perk up at the sight of a woo-woo, and girls whose woo-woo inclinations take them far beyond the ordinary realm of pee-pee tail possibility, can find a place and a purpose in the Big Picture. Happiness is finally possible. Faeries are people, too.**

Continued on page 12

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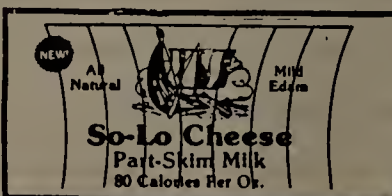
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## Foster Equality

Continued from page 1

Dukakis' approach to foster care. Dukakis is "in step with romantic reactionaries and revisionists," Burns said. "I ask you, Governor, do you want to go back 30 years to those standards?"

Demonstrators heartily welcomed Roxbury resident David Jean, co-plaintiff in the suit against the state foster care policy. Jean, along with his lover Don Babets, was a foster parent until DSS summarily removed two children from their home following a controversial Boston *Globe* story announcing the placement. Attacking what he called "the treacherous trio," Jean said, "We're here because one year ago the *Globe*, Dukakis and (Human Services Secretary Philip) Johnston began to publicly show the depths of their hypocrisy and bigotry" by declaring one-third of all current foster homes to be unloving and uncaring.

Jean singled out the *Globe's* May 11 editorial which congratulated Dukakis on the gains made in foster care services since the implementation of the policy. "If two young kids being bounced from four homes in six months is their idea of a good policy, then DSS ought to be shut down," Alluding to Dukakis' reputed political ambitions, Jean closed by saying, "If we have to fight 'Vice President Dukakis,' we will."

Bill Schulz of the Unitarian Universalist Association elicited much applause from rally-goers when he stated, "If anything is a sin, it's when women and men are forced to hide a core element of their personality behind a cloak of shame and deceit." Schulz stressed that with the Universalists' headquarters near the State House, there was a "witness of conscience to the State House" that will not go away.

A common theme from all the speakers was that the foster care policy hurt children who were being denied loving homes. Other speakers included social worker Jade McGleughlin, a member of GLDC; Jill Coleman, whose union — SEIU Local 509 — represents DSS workers; Carol Brill, executive director of the National Association of Social Workers; Paco Ojeda of the Boston Intercollegiate Lesbian and Gay Association; and Helena Halperin of Citizens for Participation in Political Action.

Several politicians, including several candidates for the hotly contested Eighth Congressional

activities are over, GLDC is looking ahead to short- and long-term plans. GLDC will sponsor an action for Gay and Lesbian Pride Day, Holmes said, and students at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst will wear stickers on their caps and gowns to protest their commencement speaker, Gov. Dukakis.

While GLDC will continue its Duke Watch campaign and will pay close attention to the actions of the newly-formed foster care commission (see *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 37), Holmes said she sees much of GLDC's work in the year ahead as "broadening the discussion between gay and lesbian ac-



Girillas perform at Foster Equality evening celebration and speakout.

District, attended the rally, including state Sen. George Bachrach, state Rep. Thomas Gallagher and Carla Johnson. Rainbow Coalition activist Mel King sent a letter of support.

Later that day, over 200 gay men and lesbians attended a celebration and speakout, where people recounted their experiences of wearing pink triangles and foster equality stickers. According to GLDC member Holmes, people spoke of having co-workers coming out to them, and of engaging in conversations with strangers about the foster care policy.

Now that the anniversary ac-

tivists and progressive organizations." Holmes said that the foster care issues saw the emergence in Boston of a radical grassroots movement and that GLDC has "revived some debate about strategy in the gay and lesbian movement." She cited the controversy over Dukakis' invitation to an AIDS Action Committee fundraiser as an example of that debate. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 12)

"While there were many gay men and lesbians involved in progressive movements, the gay and lesbian organizations were themselves electoral in scope. We've been a real challenge to them," she concluded.

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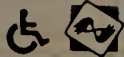
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# 'Mom, Dad, I'm Gay' Telling Our Parents About Our A

## Are You Still My Mother? Are You Still My Family?

Gloria Guss Back  
Warner Books, New York, 1985  
\$7.95, 256 pp.

## Beyond Understanding

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, San Francisco  
\$16.95, 193 pp., 1986

## Parents Come Out, a video tape

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, San Francisco  
\$69.95, 28 minutes, 1985

"Where was yet found a mother  
Who'd give her booby for another?"

—John Gay, "The Mother, the Nurse  
and the Fairy"

"It is a wise father that knows his own child."  
—William Shakespeare, "The Merchant of  
Venice," Act II Scene 2

By Robert Storem

Every May and June we celebrate what is certainly the world's oldest profession: parenthood. After all, we know Eve mothered at least two male children, but we have no indication that she ever escorted lonely men in the Garden of Eden. Mother's Day is the second biggest holiday for Hallmark (second only to Christmas) and informal research reveals tie counters already clogged with nervous offspring wondering whether paisley might not be a bit "much" for Dad. Millions of boxes of candy will induce millions of cavities across the country; millions of guilt-laden children will make the overdue phone call put off for too long, perhaps since the last time this rolled around. Many of us return lemming-like to free-standing urban, suburban and rural wombs where what is unsaid is far more important than what is openly expressed, and where much energy is expended "forgetting" some slight borne since childhood.

Sophie Portnoy, Edith Bunker, Mrs. Borden, Betty Crocker: put them all together and they spell the dominant culture's version of mother. Likewise, Western history and literature both are filled with examples of fathers whose mark, for good or for bad, stayed with their children until the end. Franz Kafka, for example, was obsessed with an inferiority complex he attributed directly to his father, while Sylvia Plath wrote one of the most scathing, and moving, pieces of poetry of the postwar generation about "Daddy." ("Daddy, Daddy, you bastard, I'm through!" she screams at him, posthumously.)

What we celebrate long about this time of year are the two people who will have a larger and more profound effect on our lives than anyone we will ever come in contact with. Even fathers who run off while we are still embryos and mothers who die in childbirth will reach beyond time and pull, silently. Particularly in families where the mother is the primary parent, her influence roots in early childhood and continues evermore. She is our only contact with humanity on a day-to-day basis, and so becomes our tutor, our drill sergeant, and most importantly, our pal. Habits learned in childhood are nigh impossible to break, and one accustomed to blabbing every innermost secret to his or her mother cannot easily be

weaned from this. I personally believe this explains a lot of irrational behavior which eventually follows the traditional telephonic, "Oh, hi Mom. It's me."

The literature on the relationship between parent and child would fill several libraries, and it is a better person than I who could briefly summarize it here. However, one important aspect of that relationship is the special interchange between a parent and their gay or lesbian child. Consider: as gay people, we are basically a minority group whose status is ours alone to reveal. Unlike racial and ethnic minorities, we enjoy a certain leeway and a very big disadvantage when (and if) we come to the point where our parents and our adult sexuality—these two very significant and almost by nature very different parts of our lives—converge. Parents in the norm are supportive, loving folk who have brought us into the world, love us, and wish us well in all future endeavors. No approval means so much, no criticism is as devastating, as that delivered from the mouth of a mother or a father. While we would like most of all for our parents to like and understand us, their reaction to a full disclosure fills us with dread. We fear they will hate us, fear us, be sick over us—and none of it for good reason.

Secretly, I suspect, we would all want to bring home a prospective Dick or Jane and have Mom say, "He's handsome!" or have Dad pull us aside with a wink and say, "Quite a sweetie you've got there." Few of us enjoy that privilege. Lesbian and gay children most often are greeted with anger, with embarrassment, with denial.

While much of gay life is portrayed as tragic, this is to my mind the only meaningful disadvantage gay life presents to us. I don't care if I ever get married in a church, I don't care that any beau I may settle down with will probably never go under my company's dental plan or be warmly received at my company picnic; what is important, however, is that my parents (or my mother, at least, since my father died years ago) come to know, to like, and to respect any man that I bring into the house. Yes, her approval means a lot to me.

My experiences may not be that typical, but my feelings almost certainly are. It is said that any conversation between two gay people (or two gay men, anyway) will soon turn to AIDS. Similarly, any relationship worthy of the name will soon come to the point where one friend will turn to the other and ask, "Do your parents know?" Gay and lesbian children, especially of my generation (somewhere between "Howdy Doody" and "The Bronski Beat," and everywhere in between) are for the first time in history learning how they can integrate their parents into their larger, adult lives.

What you are reading is ostensibly a book review, or a series of them, but since the literature I am about to cover is so anecdotal, it seems only fair to reveal a little about my parents and my past. My father died when I was about to swan dive into adulthood. He never lived to, (a) see me get into the college I wanted desperately to attend, and for which he saved and hoped for the last ten years of his life; (b) hear me tell him I loved him, in the way most adolescent men love their fathers; (c) hear me tell him I was gay, although I think I have known I was since junior high school; or and perhaps most important for him, (d) see me move out of the house.

My mother is still around alive and kicking in the house I was born and raised in. She "knows" (that I'm left handed, cook like a caveman before the discovery of fire, and that I'm gay.) She has met many of my boyfriends and has known that they are more than drinking buddies, and seems to accept that her second son will not be the one to carry on the noble family name (but that's why God created brothers).

Unfortunately, this sublime knowledge did not come to her via archangel but rather through my own stupidity. While on Thanksgiving break, I brought home a guy and we awoke to hear her announce: "It's time to ... (bedroom door opens) get up." Slam. Hasty retreat to college. Long long-distance phone calls, filled with pauses punctuated with sputters of rage and sadness. Eventually (long about the time this guy called it quits) she came around and became my biggest shoulder to cry on. I was lucky. To this day (a good four years and something later) we go out to lunch every so

often and discuss men—who, what and why. I con- that she's not the best source of advice on this so- actually, I believe she'd make a good lesbian. Once pestered me about what sort of man I thought be best for me, and in my own defense I asked what sort of man she thought would have been bes- her. She replied, "A female."

Anyway, I personally prefer to give books for over anything, and there are a couple of good ones there for anyone who has already informed their parents of their "alternate lifestyle" or will do so in near future. There is even a half-hour videotape those true parents-of-the-eighties who have hoped given themselves up to videotape, television microfilm. While none of these sources will make decision to confront one's parents any less difficult, will fulfill a very important purpose: they will r- parents come to a very important understanding three counts, expressed in one of the works: "for a 10 percent of the population it is natural to be attra- to the same sex; that there really is no choice in o- sexuality; and that there is no pattern to the typ-

**I don't care if I e  
I don't care that an  
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family that will have a gay child." These three p- are important, and their significance should- understood well. It is important for parents of gay- and lesbians to know that their children comp- significant proportion of the population and that- is nothing that these parents have done themse- have influenced their children's homosexuality. In- ticular, all three works do a good job at ripping a- that myth about the dominant mother/absent fa- scenario (which, if true, would lead us to believe 90 percent of the population born between 1940- 1970 would turn out gay).

All three works are laced with personal reflect- My personal favorite is *Are You Still My Mother?* *You Still My Family?* by Gloria Guss Back. Back w- suburban Washington, D.C. housewife whose son- her he was gay, and with that knowledge she went- to become a leading activist in the gay communi- Currently Back gives seminars and conducts ther- groups in New York City. The book's strength lies in- author's background: she went back to school to ge- graduate degree in the social sciences so that she c-

**While we w  
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better understand her son and herself, and then used- that understanding to help others accept their- children's homosexuality. Back divides her book into- several sections including a brief autobiographical- sketch, snippets of conversations with gay people, with- their children, and with "experts," and concludes the- book with an upbeat epilogue that reveals some of the- hope and happiness gay people who are comfortable- with their lives can find for themselves. There is also a- very helpful back section which discusses what a gay- person contemplating revealing his or her sexual life- must think about before she or he makes this truth- known, and what a parent can do. Her bibliography is- also among the most comprehensive I've seen in a gay- issues oriented volume. The only drawback I could find- was her exuberance. I got the distinct impression that- she was even happier than her son about his decision- (if it can be called that), but I suppose one might expect- that from someone who has literally devoted herself- to being a professional parent-of-a-gay.

Slightly different but for all intents and purposes

**No approval means so much, no criticism  
is as devastating, as that delivered  
from the mouth of a mother or father.**



# Adult Lives

identical is the more ambitious *Beyond Understanding*, brought to us by three members of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG, San Francisco), Carol Welch Griffin, Marian J. Wirth and Arthur G. Wirth. Everything about Back's book pertains to this worthy tome, except that there are more statistics, more anecdotes, and more situations covered (telling a grandmother, for example.) What I didn't like about this work was what I can only characterize as its "grooviness"—the monologues go on and on, in a sort of New Age, let-it-all-hang-out manner most residents of the East Coast are unaccustomed to. However, it too seeks to destroy some pretty common myths about gay and lesbian life (conveniently numbered for us, such as

"Myth number 7: Gay people are Few and Far Between"). *Beyond Understanding* is much shorter on action and much, much longer on words. However, it too sports an ambitious bibliography and much sane advice to parents who feel that their world may have come to an end with the utterance of the four words: "Mom, Dad, I'm gay."

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My least favorite project was viewing "Parents Come Out," again a product of P-FLAG San Francisco. Again, it objectively covers the same turf mapped by the above-mentioned works; however, there is something slightly embarrassing about having to look these parents in the eye (well, almost) while they rake themselves over some of the most painful episodes in their lives. I do realize, however, that seeing these eight parents through the VCR must be comforting to those parents who feel that their plight must be unique. The parents interviewed are almost stunningly middle-American supermarket types, which must bring flashes of relief to their audience. Truthfully, though, I have seen far more effective video presentations of this topic (*Consenting Adults* springs immediately to mind, as do a couple of local documentaries.) Regrettably I must report: for \$69.95, skip it.

And there you have it, sports fans. Lesbians and gay men who are considering giving voice to the love that dare not speak its name would do well to peruse one of the aforementioned titles, or might consider offering it up instead of a pound of Fannie Farmer's finest or

---

**d like most of all  
ke and understand us,  
disclosure of our adult  
We fear they will hate us,  
us — and none of it  
d reason.**

---

another tie that will mysteriously drift to the back of Dad's closet. Be forewarned though, that this decision and the act itself are not easy. However, as Scott Madsen has taught us so vividly, no pain equals no gain, and from what I have learned from my parents and my friends is that in 99 cases out of 100 the effort will be worth the risk. If it is never brought up again, broaching the subject of homosexuality with one or both parents inevitably will lead to more open dialogues (on any topic) and a heightened sensitivity on both sides. In rare cases (Gloria Guss Back found a few) your parents might even thank you for it.

In closing, I would just like to ad a small personal note. When I was in high school, many dewy-eyed seniors inscribed the words "Thanks, Mom and Dad" beneath their now embarrassing mug shots. I never did that, because I thought the practice was a little gratuitous and self-serving. That time has passed though, and now I'd like to say to my mother, "Happy Mothers Day," with love and gratitude.

## From a Mother's Viewpoint



### Learning to Love the Child We'd Been Taught to Fear

By Ruth Thomas

Our son, Tom, and his friend, Peter, lounged on the sofa. Tom smiled fondly at Peter and reached over to hold his hand. I winced and turned to glance at Tom's wife, Mary Kay. Her long, black eyelashes never blinked, as she continued to hold forth on her favorite topic, human relationships.

Tom is bisexual. My rational mind accepted that seven years ago, but my emotions have been slow to catch up.

Peter is a gentle and intelligent gay man, loved by both of them. All three are talented and caring people.

Since I believe that the world is enriched by all love, shouldn't I accept caresses between the two men as matter-of-factly as does Mary Kay? Shouldn't I rejoice that Tom feels free to share with me the good things in his life?

the numbers of great people whose sexual orientation had been different from the majority, in fact, anything we could think of to persuade ourselves that this was acceptable.

In the meantime, Tom was educating and training himself for an independent, productive life. So why dwell on his homosexuality? I wrote him, expressing our love and said we were only sorry he had suffered in silence for so long.

Then, unfortunately, we swept it under the rug. We still tended to see Tom's sexual orientation as his problem rather than a simple fact. Frank and I coped by emphasizing to each other Tom's many wonderful qualities and achievements. We felt these made up for this "weakness."

Scanning the material he'd left for us helped,

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### A threat to the fabric of society? Gays might well be its expert weavers.

---

Since his early childhood Tom has been a "good" boy, intelligent, never getting into trouble, courteous and eager to please. He was awkward at sports, but he showed an unusual musical talent.

For his cooperative attitude and his academic achievements his teachers loved him. Because he made music his peers learned to admire and accept him. But throughout high school he suffered the lonely agonies of hiding his sexual feelings.

His father, Frank, and I perceived that he was different, but we took comfort and pride in watching his musical talents flourish. We simply hoped that he would outgrow the effects of his tension: walking stiffly on tip-toe, occasional voice affectation and his extreme reaction to any hint of criticism.

His unmerciful punning struck me as forced humor. If I had thought about it, perhaps I'd have seen a connection between his emphasis on double meanings and what he saw as his double life.

Shortly after he'd been home from college for Thanksgiving, I discovered a piece of paper marking my place in a book. It was Tom's "coming out" note. I regret that I threw it away soon afterward, as though it was incriminating evidence. He'd stated that he was gay, that he'd been living a lie, that he loved us, felt wrong about deceiving us and that he hoped we would understand. He also provided us with several books on homosexuality.

Frank and I were stunned to see our unspoken fears written in black and white. We talked far into the night. We discussed masculine and feminine definitions; the artificiality of roles;

if only to make us realize that we were hardly alone as parents of a gay man. But our message to Tom was that this matter of intense, personal import to him was not a topic worthy of discussion.

We actually were relieved when Tom announced that he and Mary Kay planned to live together. It was bewildering, to say the least, as he had let us know that Mary Kay was a lesbian. But they seemed deeply in love, and we liked Mary Kay. Besides, we now could hope for a possible marriage which, on the surface, at least, might appear conventional. To our delight they set a wedding date within the year.

Two years after their marriage Frank died of congestive heart disease. I had to cope alone.

But Tom and Mary Kay enfolded me in their love. To be warmly welcomed into their full and gregarious lives has been both a balm and an awakening. The dirty dishes may pile up, but their work, their loved ones and their legion of friends are never left untended.

When Tom asked recently if he and Peter might visit me, Mary Kay being out of town, I not only had no qualms, but I felt it a compliment. This underscored my growth beyond mere coping.

I still feel that one's sexual orientation should be a private matter, but due to discrimination, particularly in employment and housing, and currently, due to the AIDS scare, it has been made a public issue.

All of that public who feel threatened by homosexuality should witness the gentleness, wisdom and productivity of many gays.

A threat to the fabric of society? They might well be its expert weavers.



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GCN



# Calif. Bills

Continued from page 3

bills has risen sharply this session. Last year there were nine such bills, the year before, three. Jones cited the increased public concern about AIDS as reason for the flurry of legislation, especially the repressive bills. He further suggested that election year pressures might incite law making. Doolittle's office, source of a number of repressive bills, would not return

GCN's calls concerning its AIDS legislation.

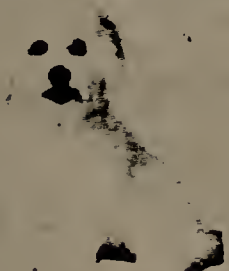
The legislative session recesses in July, and no new legislation is expected. Although AIDS activists anticipate smooth sailing for the rest of this session, their expectations for the future are not so bright. Paul Boneberg, from the San Francisco-based Mobilization Against AIDS, warned, "We just

scraped by this time, and if an antigen test [for HTLV-III, a more stringent test] becomes available, we might not be so lucky next year."

—filed from Boston

Note: See LaRouche AIDS quarantine story, page 1.

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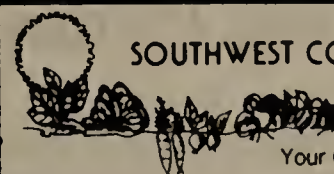
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482-2900  
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# A Place in the Big Picture

Continued from page 6

Ankha began by reading my palms. "You have good health and a lot of allergies." Yes, true... "You have many broad interests and have gone through difficult changes in the last four years." Yes, yes, go on... "Until you were six, you had an imaginary playmate. A cow, I think, whom you called Jim."

Astoundingly accurate! All true! Suddenly my little brushstroke in the Big Picture was about to be revealed! But how? — No one until this second has known — but go on...

"Do not worry. By 1986 you will be married. I see a long life. Three children."

Well, she's the psychic; I'm not. Maybe by 1986 woo-woo inclinations will come to be respected in our culture, and woo-woo alliances given legal validation. My lover and I could finally get married after years of sneaking around!

Ankha brought out her deck of tarot cards. She asked me to shuffle them. Then she spread them on

*Now, heterosexuality is god's gift to straight people, but, with all their enthusiasm for the paranormal, you might expect these hetero-psychics to develop some degree of understanding for lesbians and gay men. Not always.*

the table in a cryptically arty pattern. "The man you now live with. He is very nice. A pleasant person, no?"

"Well, yes. Nice." Perhaps she meant "the Nan I live with." My lover's name is Nan. It's an easy mistake to make: "Nan and Supernan," "Death of a Salesnan," "A Nan and a Woman..."

"I'd be careful just now with this man if you do not want to get pregnant. Use protection. There is much pregnancy floating around

your cards."

Although I trusted Nan implicitly never to sneak up behind me with a loaded turkey baster, my mind was reluctantly beginning to arrange itself in straight, suburban lines of domestic tranquillity. A plastic wading pool in the front yard. Grass stains on little Roderick's ballet tights. Receiving a box of canning jars on my birthday. Morning sickness. Something was wrong here....

But by this time, Ankha had felt the spirit. Turning over another

card, she said, "There is something unconventional about this relationship. What is it?"

"Uh. Well. Nan's a man. I mean, the man's a Nan. I mean — he's a girl."

Suddenly all the pregnancy surrounding my cards seeped into a rather large pause. Ankha's aura shrank noticeably; I could tell her vibes had become drastically mused.

"Oh." From her hushed voice, I knew that, in some deep, spiritual way, I had hauled off and socked Ankha in her third eye. "Oh. Oh. Are you sure? Think again. The cards say 'pregnant'; they do not say 'free to be you and me.'"

The rest of the reading was rather vague. Something about my having been voted in high school "girl most likely to have succeeded in a past life." Then something about my spirit guides wanting me to burn my hope chest. I can't remember. I have retained the feminine habit of blocking out the unpretty.

So forget the Big Picture. What

are earthly woo-woos for? A boy and a girl together; they are a couple. But two girls together; they are, as Curly of the Three Stooges would say, a "woo-woo-woo-woo." Hardly the subject for a serious encounter with the Beyond.

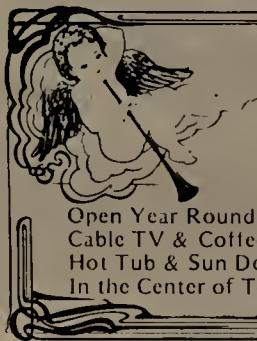
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## Coming Out

We invite readers to submit articles for Coming Out, a series in which lesbians and gay men tell the stories of their individual sexual, social, emotional and political emergence. The articles should be no longer than 1500 words and, if possible, should be typed (double-spaced, please). Send to Coming Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02111.

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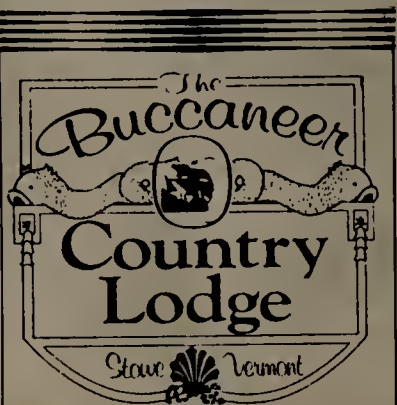
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2 L's and 8 year old girl have house to share w/2 other L's. One pet ok. Beautiful, wooded are, big roomy house, wood stove, semi-pvt bath. \$300 including heat and electricity. Food, phone separate, no heavy party'ers. Access to Rt 20, 128 & Mass Pike. Call 1-443-0417 after 7:30 pm. (41)

### PORTER SQ/ SOMERVILLE

Woman 32, seeks F to share LG 2bdrm apt. New kitch, bright w/views & porch. Be responsible & mature. \$325. Avail 6/1 or so. 628-3383/497-5178. (42)

### DAVIS SQUARE

LF wanted to share friendly supportive home w/Asian and Jewish LFs. If you are 25+, financially stable, petless, smokeless, & have a sense of humor, call 776-8405 until 11 pm. Avail now. Pref. long term but sublet poss. \$220 +. (43)

2 LF looking for responsible non-smoking 3rd. 23+ to share beaut. sunny Som. apt. w/washer, fireplace, porch, woodwork. Near Orange line + busses. \$233 +. Call 628-0851. (43)

L seeks same to share sunny 2 Bdr apt in Watertown. Hdwd flrs, working flpl, quiet street, \$350 plus util. Call 923-1609. No smoking. (43)

L 31 sks L 28+ resp, mature to share clean, spacious JP apt. Have kitten, no more pets. \$300 + nr monument & T. Warm, independent hshld. Nikki. 522-0097. Leave message. Avail immediately. (45)

### IN THE COUNTRY

Single L seeks same to share farmhouse with me & part-time daughter age 6. No smokers. \$275 includes util. wood heat, yard, garden. Some barter possible. 50 mi west of Boston: commute to southern NH, 495, Lowell, Worcester, western MA. 386-7737. (43)

2 LFs seek 3rd to join our cozy Somerville home. Nr Davis Sq. Backyard w/garden. Semicoop, semiveg, no pets, or cigs. Rent \$200 + utils. 625-7435. (43)

### AVAILBE JUNE 1 OR SOONER

LF 34 sks resp LF rmte for Somerville apt. 2 br, 2 porch, 2nd fl, \$285 incl heat, hot water + gas. 10 min walk to Davis Sq. I have a dog, no more pets. Call 625-1039. Leave message. (43)

### ROOMY HOUSE IN SOMERVILLE

1 man 1 woman need 1 more to share hse. Dauna wood flrs, quiet area nr Redline and busses. No pets, non smoker only. Immed opening, \$350/mo. Call 623-7258. 5-10 pm. (43)

3 LF seek 4th for 4 Bdrm in Cambridge. Friendly, independent, drug-alcohol-pet-free home. No smokers. \$250 & util & last month. Call 864-5304. (43)

### APT. SOMERVILLE

LF seeking resp LF to share summy 2 br 2nd fl apt in Som. \$200 + util. Call 628-6917. Eve. No drugs, so smokes. Avail immed. (45)

LF, prof., 32 seeks roommate to share safe, nice 5rm apt. w/porch & small yard in 2-fam house. Watertown near Oakley SQ. Near T. Avail June 1. Rent \$350 + utilities. Call 924-5967. (44)

LF wanted for coop house in Allston. 4 LF, 2 cats, Beaut. \$170 +, No smokers. close to T and bus. 782-0599. (43)

2 GF for independent 4 br Cambridge apt, 6/1. Drug alcohol free, no smokers. \$250 + util & last mo. Call 864-5304 or 354-7437. (43)

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2 GM seek 1 person, M or F to rent 2 rooms in Central Sq apt. You pay: \$342 + last mo sec, util. Avail July 1. 497-6323. (44)

### SPECIAL ROOMMATE SITUATION

2 JLFs seek drug-alcohol-sm-free roommate for summer (with possible extension. Your own room, (partially furn.) Conv to T. W/d, spacious, sunny apt in Medford, safe area. \$250 includes all except food, phone. We welcome humor, music makers & relative sanity. We have 1 cat. No more, please. (44)

2 LFs seek a 3rd for gorgeous sunny 3 br in Belmont. Prefer 28+, veggie, no smoke, sorry no pets. We're clean, friendly + looking for someone to make a committemnt to a home. June 1st. Call Rosanna and Susan. 484-1553. (45)

### SUMMER IN SOMERVILLE

LF 33 seeks LF to share 5 rooms in house with small yard. Nonsmoker. I have a cat, no more. Nat woodwork, hardwood flrs. \$275+. Call 625-5364. (45)

LF 32, prof, seeks 2 others to share 6 rm, 3bdrm, 2nd fl apt in Davis Sq. 2 porches, yard. \$233 each, plus. 628-4379. (47)

Oak Sq. Bri. Prof L30's seeks rmt for clean, quiet 4 rm apt in hse. No alcohol, drugs, cigs or pets. \$262.50 + util. Avail 7/1. Call 782-7732. (47)

Lf seeks progressive feminist 22-35 for 2 bdrm apt between Inman and Harvard Squares. Moders, secure bldg. Have cat. Must be responsible & independent. Minimal drugs, alcohol. Must sign year lease, beg. 6/1. \$350+, cheap electric heat. Silvia, 492-5121 till 11 pm. (45)

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Studious LF activist, 35, seeks L to share in-house 2Br apt near Tufts Univ. 2 prchs, frplc, pets ok. \$330 plus util. Avail June 1. Call 391-5052. (45)

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Spacious sunny 2 bdrm apt, water views, prochies, dishwasher, easy pkg, nr beach, 5 min to Red line. Call 288-5709. \$700. (44)

#### BROOKLINE, 2 BEDROOM DUPLEX

2 Bed, 2 bath near Coolidge corner. Good size rooms, hardwood floors. Mod kitch & baths. Conv to stores & tr. Avail July 1. \$900 incl heat. 566-2558 Leave message. (44)

#### PROVINCETOWN

#### BARGAIN RENTAL

One room cottage, priv beach & pool, double bed, pullout couch, klt, alcove cable tv. Avail June \$300/week, May, Sept, Oct, \$225/week. Call Lisa 828-5091. (44)

#### MEDFORD 4 BDRM APT

Nr Tufts, trans. 8 rms on 2 & 3rd fl of hs. Has porch, yard. Very quiet, green neighborhood. \$900/mo incl gas, elec, but not heat. Avail 6/1. Call 391-2083 & lv message. (45)

#### LAKESHORE, PRIVACY — MAINE

Secluded seductive cabin-3 bedrooms, stone fireplace, Loons at nights. June-Sept. S. Roberts, 2E, 758 Pelham PkwyS, Bronx, NY, 10462. (v14.3)

Jones Hill, Dorchester. 2 room apt, sundeck, view of bay, Lesbian building, off street prkng. \$450 includes heat & all util. Avail now. 436-2583. (45)



I'm a 26 yr old female, very understanding and have lots of love to give. I would like to have a serious friendship, a nice and long one. I used to live in Brockton, am a Libra. I am white but was raised with blacks and would enjoy having a black friend too. Thank you. Tammy MELCHIONNE, Box A-IMCC, Oakdale IA 52319.

I enjoy reading your newspaper very much! I share it with a couple of gay friends in here. They do everything they can to keep loving relationships from starting in here. I'm a tutor in an educational programs in here. It's good training. It would be great to have a penpal! Roslynn TATE, 7271, Box 180, Muncy PA 17756.

I need some penpals who will help me have some confidence in myself. My nickname is "Mitch" and I would like to hear from someone who is warm and understanding. I enjoy sports and drawing. Michelle SAUL, Box A-IMCC, Oakdale IA 52319.



Just wanted to let you know that I am still getting GCN and like it very much. I would like to find someone from the gay community who might come and visit me here now and then, as I am on a program where I'll be able to leave here for a day(time) and would need a friend to escort me out. (The only criticism I have of your paper is that there should be more pictures of nude bodies.) (smile) Thanks! Michael FULLER, 30 Administration Rd, Bridgewater MA 02324.

Gay Bi-sexual man, new to gay world, but love it. Please write and help me learn of my gay self. Also lesbians who are dominant and like gay male slaves obeying and serving her needs. Please write Everett LOHRBACK, Box 2, 17684, Lansing KS 66043.

I have bedroom eyes and am into music, hiking, swimming, video games, and romance. I am lonely and would like to find a special person to share myself with. James JORDAN, C-97565, PO Box 1902-A, Tehachapi, CA 93561.

Need friends of the life to write and maybe get a relationship started for when I'm released. Norman FIELD, TCJ, 2000 Lakeridge Dr, Olympia WA 98502.

## Prisoners Seeking Friends

To all those who in and out of prison fight against their bondage.  
-Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs Of An Anarchist*



I would appreciate If you could send me some books (classic lit, novels, history and political topics are best), and if a penpal wrote that would be nice. I enjoy cooking, reading, good music (jazz, folk, country and some rock) and love good intelligent conversation and correspondence. Kenneth SHERRY, 6319, PO Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064.

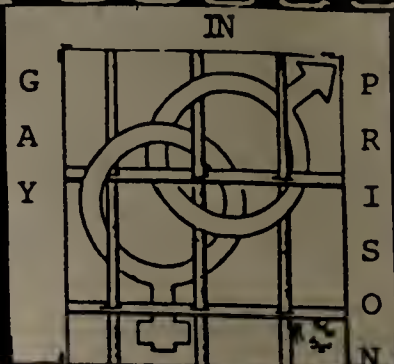
Gay male intellectual, hedonistic, voyeur, good body, sensuous lips. Photo available for TV-TS Queens! Write and you're guaranteed a response. None of this is a lie. Kenneth JOHNSON, 17322, Box 607, Carson City NV 89701.

In the free world I was living too fast. In here I have time to think about that. I can't get mail from other prisoners, but would like to hear from some free world people, especially transsexual. Please put me on your book list too. Thanks. Bennie SMITH, 071034, Box 578 C-17, Crestview FL 32536.

I'm currently enrolled in a very good vocational auto-diesel mechanics course which should prepare me for finding a job upon release, but I need some contacts, preferably in the San Jose area which is where I plan to parole to. Any ideas you can help me with would be appreciated. Jeffrey SAY, D-12579, 4275X, Box 8101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93409.



Need to exchange moral support and care & concern with someone to help me keep some meaningful light in these dark times we are in. Just friendship, comradery and a respectful mind are what I need. Bruce GODFREY, 15579 Annex 25, Box 14, Concord NH 03301.



TV femme would like to correspond with someone for friendship. Into distance running, music, reading, would love to hear form you (cannot write prisoners) Leroy CRONE, 36372-019, HOV-A4, Box 1000, Leavenworth KS 66048.

I am seeking legal advice for habeas corpus and cirtuary info about my case based on hypothetical evid. Any help would be appreciated. This concerns a death sentence. Michael HIGHTOWER, 80478-011, HOV-A4, Box 1000, Leavenworth KS 66048.



Tall, Black and Handsome. Looking for serious relationship. TS, TV and queens write Julius EVANS, 303333, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851

I used to work for the Copa (in Key West), am a licensed cosmetologist and love modeling, fashions, art, etc. Have had transsexuals and straight-gay men as lovers. No fetishes there. Would truly love to hear from someone. Steve DEVRIS, 880194, Box 1500 (231), Cross City FL 32628.

Black Vietnam vet seeking correspondence with anyone in the free world. There's so many things that I like to do and will share with all that takes the time to write. Charles CLARK, 182645, Box 57, Marion ON 43302.

Am snstv, intlgnt, no smok, alch. Like to empathize w/ pos folk. Ythfl, matured late. Sxy male amazon. Am health nut, luv cooking, trees, fertile soil, working. Need a home mkr? David BEEGLE, A-087523, Box 158, Lowell FL 32663

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### ORGANIZATIONS

#### D.O.B

Support organization for leabians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, ynger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, Issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women Invited to paticipate. (v14.35)

#### BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (v14.15)

#### LESBIANS

Are you lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go to? Come join us at BAGLY. Call tony, 497-8282 (v13.32)

#### "JOHNNY DIED TODAY"

14 year old Joey will blow out his brain, Eddie will overdose, and David will slash his wrists in the days to come. All because you're too scared to protect them. SASE for Info, \$2 stamps, 64 page newsletter. \$20 sub/mbrshp. "Reality Inc". PO Box 73, Paramus, NJ 07653. (?)

#### GAY, LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activittles Include religious observances, potluck dlnners, discussions, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN calendar. Call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11, Cambridge, MA 02238. (v14.35)

#### MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more Information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST, NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (v14.23)

#### CONCORD MEN'S GROUP

A support group in Central N.H. for Gay and Bi-sexual men on Frl. at 7:30 pm. For more Info, call Gay Info-line of N.H. at (603) 753-9533. (v14.18)

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HOWARD MOVING



# CALENDAR

**May 24  
to  
June 2**

## 24 saturday

**Boston** — Black & White Men Together/Boston sixth anniversary celebration featuring **Bayard Rustin**. The Forum, Lamont Library, Harvard Univ. 2PM. Info: John Bush, 1396 Drift Rd., Westport, MA 02790.

**Cambridge** — Boston Area Women's Self-defense Collective accepting new students. Central Sq. 4:30-6:30PM. Info: 574-9433.

## 25 sunday

**Jamaica Plain** — Blackbird Coffeehouse presents **Jennifer & Amelia** and Alfonso Vilallonga. Corner of Centre & Eliot Sts. Info: 522-5698.

**Boston** — **Hands Across Massachusetts**, benefitting USA for Africa. Mass. State House to Cambridge & back to Boston. 3PM. \$10 to participate. \$25 includes t-shirt. Info: 482-4464.

## 26 monday

**Boston** — **Candlelight Walk and Interfaith Service** in Memory of Those Who Have Died of AIDS. Boylston T-station, 8PM, walk to Old South Church. 8:30PM, Memorial Service. Info: Rev. Jennifer Phillips, 868-6589 or David Passer, 623-3366.

**Cambridge** — **Sounds From the Global Village**, a benefit concert. MIT Kresge Aud. 8PM. Info: 253-3216 during the day.

## 27 tuesday

**Cambridge** — **Younger Lesbians 22 and under**. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Newcomers welcome. Info: 661-3633.

## 28 wednesday

**Boston** — Project Place orientation for **volunteer trainings**. Rutland St., South End. 6PM. Info: 262-3740.

**Waltham** — Support Committee for **Battered Women** needs weekend volunteers. Info: 891-0742.

## 29 thursday

**Boston** — **GCN's production night**: all welcome to proofread & paste-up pages. 5-7PM for proofreading, 8PM-midnight for paste-up. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

**Boston** — **Gay Games** Boston team organizing. Speaker and Gay Games I videos. Fritz, 26 Chandler St., at Berkeley. 8PM. Info: Jeff, 666-4283 or 267-0328.

**Cambridge** — **Meredith Monk** presents Solo Concert for Voice & Piano. Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St. 8PM. \$10. Info: 876-6055.

**Dorchester** — **Dorchester GALA** Bridge with Scot & Bill. 7:30PM. Info: Scot, 282-9348 or Rudy, 282-5671.

**Boston** — Double-Edge Theatre presents **Franz Xaver Kroetz Concert**. 5 St. Luke's Rd. 8PM. \$8. Through June 7. "Pay what you can" on Thursdays. Info: 254-4228.

**Springfield** — Western Mass. **Parents & Friends** of Lesbians & Gays. YWCA, 137 Chestnut St. 7:30PM. Info: (413) 732-0677.

**Cambridge** — "Lesbians and Business Issues," discussion. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM \$1. Info: 661-3633.

## 30 friday

**Boston** — **GCN's volunteer night**: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.



Moving Violations motorcycle run, 31 saturday

**Cambridge** — **Women 35+ discussion**. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

**Boston** — Playwrights' Perspectives presents **two one-act plays**, *The Vote* and *The Hospice Worker*. Emerson College Main Stage, 69 Brimmer St., Beacon Hill. 8PM. \$5. Also playing June 5.

**Jamaica Plain** — **The Lavender Ball**. Curtis Hall, Municipal Building, 20 South St. 8PM. \$6.

**Boston** — Boston Gay & Lesbian Political **Alliance Auction '86**. Lenox Hotel, Dome Room. 6:30PM. All welcome.

**Cambridge** — **Art of Black Dance & Music's** 10th Year Anniv. M.L. King, Jr. School, 100 Putnam Ave. 7:30PM. Info: 666-1859.



Gay Games organizing, 29 thursday

## 31 saturday

**Brookline** — **B.B.A.N.G.L. Second Anniv.** Potluck Bash. 7PM. Info: Barry, 277-1376 or Mitchell, 738-0656.

**Cambridge** — "Staying Together," a discussion for lesbian couples. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

**Dorchester** — **TWA flight attendants strike** support benefit dance with Girls Night Out and the Girlillas. Freeport Hall, 256 Freeport St. 8PM. \$10 advance, \$12 at door. Cash bar. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 576-6788.

**Boston** — "Erotic 4" group exhibition opening reception. Piano factory, 791 Tremont St. 7-11PM. Info: 437-9365.

**Boston** — Greater Boston **Gay Men's Association**. Church of St. John the Evangelist, basement, 35 Bowdoin St. 8PM. Info: 353-1697.

**Cambridge** — **Red Hearts** monthly potluck for gay men on the left. 7-9PM. Info: 547-5166.

**Somerville** — **Women's Motorcycle Run** to benefit Respond, a battered women's service. Somerville District Court House Parking lot, near Assembly Sq. Mall. 9:30AM. Registration: \$5-\$10. Info: Moving Violations Motorcycle Club, c/o Furbush, 1459 VFW Parkway, B12, W. Roxbury, MA 02132.

**Conway** — **Rock Climbing** workshop, sponsored by Outdoor Trips for Women. 9AM-5PM. Info: Sue Tippet, (413) 256-0898.

**Boston** — "Hand Mirrors for Medusa," a performance about **sexual mythologies**, by Kathy Marmor. Mobius, 354 Congress St. 8PM. \$4 donation. Info: 576-2368.

**Lawrence** — **Lowell National Park Bike Tour** with the Chiltern Mtn. Club. 30 miles, easy hills. Beginners welcome. Info: Bob & Joe, 689-8052.

## june 1 sunday

**Cambridge** — **Woman to Woman**, New England Women in Support of Central American Women, an **educational celebration**. Clayground, 91 Hampshire St. 2-7PM.

**Dorchester** — **GALA outdoor barbeque potluck**. 7:30PM (Newsletter mailing, 6:30PM) Raindate: June 8. Info: Diane, 288-9155 or Ed, 288-4367.

**Boston** — Firing Line presents "AIDS: The Rights of the Patient, The Rights of the Public." Channel 44, WGBX-TV. 4PM.

**Cambridge** — **Women's Softball** just-for-fun. Magazine Field, across from Memorial Drive Stop & Shop. 4-6PM. Every Sunday. Info: 661-3633.

**Boston** — "From All Walks of Life," a 10K pledge walk to benefit AIDS care & research. Registration at Boston Common, 9:30AM. Sponsored by the AIDS Action Committee. Info: 266-6906 or 437-6200.

**Brookline** — "Women in Housing: A Feminist Housing Analysis?" a talk with Joan Sprague, Joanie Seager and Ellen Fiengold. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 7PM. Info: 426-9026.

**Cambridge** — **Local Progressive Folk Music**: Marcia Deihl, Marianne Kreitlow, Deborah Silverstein and Willie Sordill. Charlie's Tap, 280 Green St., Central Sq. 8PM. \$5. Benefit for Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers. Info: 661-UCTW.

**Northfield** — "Can-U-Canoe," a **canoe workshop** on the Connecticut River, sponsored by Outdoor Trips for Women. 9AM-5PM. Info: Sue Tippet, (413) 256-0898.

## 2 monday

**Cambridge** — **Aspects of Aging**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8:30PM. Info: 354-8807.

**Boston** — **GCN membership** meeting and pot-luck supper. All volunteers welcome. 167 Tremont St. 6-8PM. Info: 426-4469.

## note this!

**Dreamchild**. Directed by Gavin Miller. Written by Dennis Potter. Alice in Wonderland characters designed and performed by Jim Henson's Creature Shop. With Coral Browne, Ian Holm, Nicola Cowper, Jane Asher. At the Orson Welles, Cambridge.

It's been common in recent years, to view *Alice in Wonderland* not as a children's tale, but as a glimpse into the underside of Victorian psycho-sexual feelings and mores. Gavin Miller's *Dreamchild* takes this view of the *Alice* books and then does it one better. Seventy-three years after Lewis Carroll wrote his books, their inspiration — Alice Liddell Hargreaves — now 80, comes to 1932 New York to receive an honorary degree on the centenary of Carroll's birth. Plucked from her Victorian past, Alice is tossed into the wonderland of the New World.

But the adventure becomes disturbing as she has to think more and more about what was really happening between her ten-year-old self and the obviously smitten 30-year-old Carroll. She becomes increasingly haunted by dreams of her family, Carroll and nightmarish images of the Wonderland characters, as she begins to realize how much she has repressed, over the years, of Carroll's love and her own ambivalent feelings.

*Dreamchild* has a magical look and feel — the Jim Henson Wonderland creatures are incredible — which both supports and enhances its deeper, darker psychological underpinnings. Dealing with repression, childhood sexuality, intergenerational infatuation, and inability to love, *Dreamchild* packs more content and sense into its 105 minutes than any number of books on the topics. The acting — especially Coral Browne as the older Alice — is perfect. As enjoyable as the film is, its real power comes from its unrelenting look at the darker, unspoken, realizations about sexuality.

— Michael Bronski

## Women's Motorcycle Festival

Early registration for the third annual Women's Motorcycle Festival, to be held August 21-24 in LeRoy, New York, ends June 30. Events include the "Dice Run," a gauntlet-style 50-mile trivia trek and the Leather and Lace All-Star Revue. Information: WMF '86, 7 Lent Ave., LeRoy, N.Y. 14482. (716) 768-6054.

## Big Brothers and Sisters

Boston area lesbians and gay men wanted to be "big brothers and sisters" to children of lesbians and gay men. Four hours every other week commitment for one year minimum. Volunteers to be screened. Information: 783-4880.

## Gazette

New literary publication primarily for gay and lesbian writers. Prose pieces under 2,500 words; poetry under 75 lines. Music scores, ink line drawings and cartoons also welcome. Premiere issue due this month. Send poetry, music and art submissions to: William Barber, 496 Hudson St., Apartment 463, New York, NY 10014; and prose to: Robert Boucheron, P.O. Box 1261, New York, NY 10113.

## Focus

The literary journal of the oldest lesbian organization in the U.S., Daughters of Bilitis, will resume publication in June, 1986, after a 2 year hiatus. Send poetry, fiction, reviews, opinion, art work and photos to: Focus, D.O.B., Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138.

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

# GAY COMMUNITY NEWS



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